

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 11-16, 19, and 20 remain pending in the application. Claims 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 are independent.

In the Office Action of April 30, 2008, claims 11-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0135608 to Hamada et al. ("Hamada") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0184780 to Seo et al. ("Seo"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,574,419 issued to Nonomura and U.S. Patent Application No. 2007/0286577 to Kato et al. ("Kato"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that the combination of references discloses all the features recited in the claimed invention. With regard to independent claim 11, for example, the Office Action alleges that Hamada discloses an apparatus for recording information on a tangible medium. The information is alleged to include stream files having still pictures, play list files, which order the still pictures and background music to be played, and play list marks that correspond to the still pictures. The Office Action further indicates that Hamada discloses play list files having one or more play items and one or more sub play items such that each play item corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of the play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating an end time for the still picture, and presentation time for the still picture. Each of the play items allegedly

corresponds to a BGM, while each of the sub play item includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM. Each play list mark is indicated as being associated with only one corresponding still picture.

The Office Action admits that Hamada fails to disclose the BGM of the SubPlayItem and still pictures of the PlayItem being independently reproduced. Seo is relied upon for disclosing a playlist area that stores at least one sub-play item where the playitem provides navigation information indicating at least one still picture from a first file to reproduce still pictures, and the sub-playitem provides navigation information for reproducing audio data from a second file. Seo is further relied upon as disclosing a feature of the audio data being reproduced either in a synchronized or unsynchronized fashion with the still image.

The Office Action further admits that the combination of Hamada and Seo still fails to disclose the feature of the still pictures of the PlayItems and the BGM of the SubPlayItems being controlled without interrupting each other, as well as each PlayListMark being provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and each PlayItem. Nonomura and Kato are relied upon for disclosing these additional features.

As amended, independent claim 11 defines an apparatus for recording information on a tangible recording medium, the information comprises:

stream files including still pictures;
PlayList files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and
PlayListMarks that correspond to said still pictures;
wherein:

each of said PlayList files has one or more PlayItems and one or more SubPlayItems,

each of said PlayItems corresponds to one or more still pictures,

each of said PlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,

each of said SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM, each of said SubPlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM,

each of said PlayListMarks is associated with only one corresponding still picture,

each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each of said PlayItems,

the still pictures of the PlayItems and BGM of said SubPlayItems are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other,

reproduction of the BGM of the SubPlayItems is independently repeated, if there are additional still pictures of the PlayItems to be reproduced, and

one of a subsequent and last PlayList file on the recording medium is played.

According to independent claim 11, the information stored on the recording medium includes stream files having still pictures, PlayList files that order the still pictures and background music to be played, and PlayList marks that correspond to the still pictures. Each still picture has one or more PlayItems

and one or more SubPlayItems. Each PlayItem corresponds to one or more still pictures and includes: start information indicating a presentation start time, end information indicating a presentation end time, as well as a presentation time for the still picture. Each of the SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM and includes: start information, end information, and presentation time for the BGM. Each Playlist mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture. According to independent claim 11, each Playlist mark is provided at the beginning of each Playlist file and at the beginning of each PlayItem. The still pictures of the PlayItems and the BGM of the SubPlayItems are capable of being independently reproduced such that the still pictures can be freely navigated forward or backward without interrupting the reproduction of the BGM. Furthermore, reproduction of the BGM of the SubPlayItems is independently repeated if there are additional still pictures of the PlayItems to be reproduced, and either a subsequent or last Playlist file on the recording medium is played.

Applicants' review of the cited references has failed to reveal any disclosure or suggestion for this combination of features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 11 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 11, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 11. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been amended to recite features similar to those now recited in independent claim 11. Accordingly, these claims are now believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Claims 14 and 16 depend from independent claims 13 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, these claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 13 and 15.


For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43142X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 30, 2008